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Preparation for the General Assembly Debate on Outer Space

There follows below a series of questions for which it will be important to have answers in order to make adequate preparations for the General Assembly debate on Outer Space. The Agencies and Bureaus which appear in the best position to provide answers are indicated for each series of questions.

1. Legal Questions (L)

a. Request general recommendations as to optimum strategy in the United Nations Outer Space Committee and in ^{the} 17th GA on issues deriving from Legal Subcommittee sessions.

b. Should we alter our position on the question of assistance and return of space vehicles and personnel by recommending that a drafting group of governmental representatives draw up an international agreement? From the United States point of view, would a treaty or executive agreement be more appropriate? Would it be feasible to advocate inclusion of a "national security" escape clause?

c. L. has assumed responsibility for formulation and circulation of a draft international statement of "general principles" for space programs.

2. Political-Military Questions (G/PM, DOD)

a. How might the subject of reconnaissance satellites be most advantageously dealt with if raised by others in the Outer Space Committee or General Assembly?

b. What are the relevant military considerations in the matter of United States adherence to a United Nations statement of general principles for outer space programs?

c. From the point of view of national security interest, to what extent could the United States agree to international consultation over allegedly harmful effects of space programs? (A COSPAR committee has been set up to review such allegations.)

d. Should

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

-2-

d. Should the United States reaffirm its position that outer space should be reserved for peaceful purposes; if so how should we define peaceful uses, and how would we fit reconnaissance satellites into this framework?

e. How should the United States respond to allegations of aggressive intent and harmful effects of our high-altitude nuclear testing?

f. How should contingency response to allegations of harmful effects of Project West Ford be altered in light of the forthcoming second experiment?

g. Views solicited on feasibility of a package initiative, separate from General and Complete Disarmament, incorporating pre-launch notification, inspection, and prohibition of bombs-in-orbit; and of a declaratory prohibition of bomb-carrying satellites.

3. NASA

a. Request a fresh evaluation of projected United Nations program of compilation and exchange of scientific and technical information related to outer space programs.

b. Request recommendations regarding next desirable steps towards establishment of international sounding rocket launching facilities.

c. Request evaluation of current progress and possible further initiatives in United States-Soviet Union bilateral discussions.

d. What principles would NASA find acceptable for inclusion in a United Nations statement of general principles for space programs?

4. Satellite Meteorology

a. What proposals should be made regarding the optimum organization for research in the atmospheric sciences? (S/SA, White House, Science Advisor's Office)

b. What proposals should be made to improve meteorological servicing arrangements? (White House, Science Advisor's office)

c. How might the composite international initiative in satellite meteorological development best be financed? (CES, OIA)

5. Satellite

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-3-

5. Satellite Communications

The following offices are developing their views on an optimum arrangement for an international satellite communications system, and on the potential function of the ITU in relation to that system: E, L, UNP.

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